

Possible places to save money and improve public's control over what happens to their lands:

- In the long term
 - Healthier forests due to better management practices
 - Overall improvement on forest environments
 - More board feet of forests
 - Pests and disease reduced
 - Fewer forest fires (more trees to harvest)
 - Fewer wildlife killed in forest fires
 - More habitat for wildlife
 - Small tree farms, individual forests, and company forests are safer from pests, disease, and fire
 - Public control and use improved by state and county governing the land
 - Better forests for public to visit
 - no federal shutdown of public lands
 - local control of the forests mean that citizens can go to the local department of lands, to their representatives in congress, and the governor to make sure the land is managed well, productive, and flourishing
 - Citizens can hold those accountable who mismanage lands so that they are not sustainable for future generations.
 - Jobs will be produced
 - Local industry tree harvesting will improve
 - Management costs will become a smaller compared to revenue earned
 - Reduction in the amount of wild fire damage to commercial and personal property
 - Improved recreation potential
 - Removing Federal management
 - The USFS has stated their costs are increasing due to new requirements for the environment, the state would be able to decide what studies and policies need to be done for the environment and what is waste
 - Even if we don't directly pay for the federal government, our federal taxes are still paying for them to work here and mismanage the forests so taxes will not have to go to Idaho forests (and hopefully soon wont pay for other state's huge percentages of their federal lands)
 - When conflicts arise there are fewer parties to deal with and bureaucracies to fight through
 - We will no longer be dependent on the federal government for caring for our forests with their increasing deficit. What will happen if we default on our debts? Good bye forests.
 - Those who are the top authority over the forests live in our state and have family affected by what happens to the health and sustain ability of our forests while bureaucrats in other places have current control now.

What do we want?

- We want to fund our schools without having levies. Forests acquired should only go into endowments for our public schools, universities, colleges, and to our veterans. So that public schools are levy free, college tuition is held in check, and our veterans are cared for.
- We want local (state, county) government control over our forests because their family and friends are affected by what they do with the forests.
- We want sustainable, healthy, and productive forests.
- We want forests managed so that fire hazards are reduced, wild life will flourish in safety, and selective harvesting to keep pests and disease from running rampant.
- We want to be able to hold those accountable who make mistakes that are detrimental to the sustainability of our forests.
- We want the public to have their voice heard by even the highest officials over the forests.

We want Progress on all of these points and transfer federal lands to the state is the way to go.

Yes, startup costs and administrative costs will need to be paid for and we will have to find a way to do it. C.S. Lewis said

“progress means getting nearer to the place where you want to be. And if you have taken a wrong turn, then to go forward does not get you any nearer. If you are on the wrong road, progress means doing an about turn and walking back to the right road; and in that case the man who turns back soonest is the most progressive man.” C.S. Lewis

So I ask our senators and representatives to turn our state around and get on the right road so we can begin to move towards what we want for our forests.